(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Talwar Committee constituted for this purpose has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken for implementation of its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Postal Department has been utilising the services of ED Agents for providing Postal services in the Country-side where the traffic density is too low to justify the management of Departmental employees. From time to time the ED Agents have been pressing for improving their service condition through their recognised Unions and as such we are aware of their demands.

(b) The details of the demands are given in the statement which have been considered in detail by Justice Talwar Committee appointed by the Goverment in this behalf.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per an agreement entered into by the Department with the ED Agents Union the Talwar Committee Report is to be first discussed by a Committee comprising of their Union representatives, DOP&T and Ministry of Finance. As such a final decision on the recommendations contained in the Report would be possible only after these modalities are completed. Discussions with the EDAs Unions have been already initiated in this behalf and all possible steps are being initiated to take final decision on the report.

Statement

Demands of ED employees put forward by three affiliated federations of the Deptt. of Posts are :

1. To declare that the ED Agents including applicants are entitled to get appropriate scales of pay and proportionate wages equal to their corresponding counterparts in the regular establishment to evolve suitable scheme for payment of equal pay for equal work.
2. To declare that the ED Agents being holders of civil posts are entitled to get all service benefits including scales of pay, annual increments and promotions, pension, earned leave, casual leave, LTC, HRA and such other benefits as are granted to the regular employees in the Department and direct the Goverment to extend such benefits of ED Agents forthwith.
3. Grant of pensionary benefits applicable to the regular departmental staff and taking into consideration the wages paid at the time of retirements on the basis of the length of service with benefits of commutation.
4. Grant of travelling allowance, medical allowance and pay scales with periodical increments as applicable to the regular staff.
5. Payment of gratuity at the rate paid to then regular staff and upper limit so fixed at Rs. 6000/- be quashed.
6. Extension of GPF and family pension benefits to ED Agents.
7. Extension of concession of compassionate appointment to one of the dependants/near relatives of an ED Agent who dies while in service.
8. Two time-bound promotions during their service in the Department-first promotion on completion of 16 years service and second promotion on completion of 26 years service as at present, no such promotional Avenues exist in the Department.
9. Payment of subsistence allowance to the ED Agents during the put off duty period, leave with wages including maternity leave to women ED Agents.
10. To direct the Government that the entire service of the ED Agents shall be counted for the purpose of fixation of pay for grant of pension etc.

[English]

Upgradation of Maninagar-Ahmedabad-Mumbai Rail Track

1407. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any paln to upgrade the Maninagar-Ahmedabad-Mumbai railway track in the near future; and

(b) if so, the time by which the plan is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Track is already upgraded on Mumbai Central - Ahmedabad section. The maximum permissible speed of trains on Mumbai Central - Vadodara section is 120 kmph. On Vadodara - Ahmedabad section, at present the speed is 100 kmph which is proposed to be raised to 110 kmph by 31.3.98 for which trials are being conducted.

[Translation]

Rail Engines

1408. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the types of Rail engines available with the Railways at present, Zone-wise;

(b) the number of engines are being manufactured annually in the country alongwith the number of engines imported;

(c) the number of coaches and wagons with the Railways at present and their annual production indigenously alongwith the number of wagons and coaches imported;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make th ecountry self-sufficient in the matter of production of Rail engines and wagons;

(e) the expenditure incurred on indigenous and imported products annually;

(f) whether the capacities of Railway factories such as the Jamalpur workshop of Eastern Railways are being utilised fully; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The types of locomotives available with the Rilways, Zone-wise are as under :-

Statement

Railway	Broad Gauge (Dsl.)	Broad Gauge Electrical		
		AC	DC	AC/DC
Central	WDM2, WDG2, WDS4&2, WDS6	WAG2,5&7, WAP1, 2, 3 & 4	WCM1, 2, 4, 5&6, WCG2	WCAM2&3
Eastern	WDM2&6, WDS2, 4&6	WAM1, 2, 3 & 4, WAP 1&6, WAG4, 5, 7&9		
Northern	WDM2&4, WDM2C, WDS2&4, WDP1	WAG4, 5&7, WAM1&4, WAP1, 3 & 5		
North Eastern	WDM1&2			
Northeast Frontier	WDM2, WDS6			
Southern	WDM2&7, WDM2C, WDS2, 4&6	WAG5&7, WAM4, WAP1		
South Central	WDM2, WDM2C, WDS2, 4&6, WDG2	WAG1, 4&5 WAM4, WAP4		
South Eastern	WDM2, WDG2, WDS 5&6	WAG1, 5, 6&7, WAM4		
Western	WDM2, WDS2, 4&6	WAG1&5, WAM4, WAP1, 3, 4&6		WCAM1&2

Railway	Metre Gauge (Dsl.)	Metre Gange (Steam)	Narrow Gauge (Dsl.)	Narrow Gauge (Steam)
Central	-	-	NDM1&5, ZDM4A ZDM5	-
Eastern	-	-	ZDM5	-
Northern	YDM4	-	ZDM3	-
North Eastern	YDM4	YP,YG	-	-
Northeast Frontier	YDM4	-	-	B Class
Southern	YDM2&4	YP, xClass	-	-
South Central	YDM 2&4	-	-	-
South Eastern	-	-	ZDM3, ZDM2R, ZDM4A, ZDM5	-
Western	YDM1, 3, 4&5	YP, YG	ZDM5	ZB

(e) The expenditure approximately incurred indigenously on manufacture of Locomotives, coaches and wagons during the last three years is as follows :-

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

	Locomotives (*)	Coaches (**)	Wagons
1994-95	914.29	625.62	378.37
1995-96	715.76	731.00	794.33
1996-97	1013.42	906.51	1133.39

(*) Diesel & Electric

(**) Including EMUs, MEMUs & DMUs

Following expenditure on imports has been incurred :

(i) ABB Electric Locomotives - Rs. 738 crores (approx.)

(ii) US$ 2.7 Million (As advance payment for Diesel Electric Locos)

(iii) DM 8.7 million (As advance payment for coaches)

(f) The available infrastructure and manpower is being gainfully utilised in the Railway factories including Jamalpur Workshop.

(g) Does not arise.

Collision of Goods Train with a Bus

1409. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a bus collided with a goods train on a railway crossing between Barhan-Chamrauli near Agra recently;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and injured in the accident;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of persons killed and injured in this accident was as under :

(i)	Killed	-	6
(ii)	Grievous injured	-	23
(iii)	Minor injuries	-	15

(c) and (d) The accident was enquired by a Committee of officers which has concluded that it occurred due to negligence on the part of Bus driver who failed to control his bus and dashed with the train after breaking the barriers of gate.

(e) An FIR has been lodged against the bus driver at Police Station Aonwal Khera, Dist. Agra.

[English]

TAC-Gujarat

1410. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telephone Advisory Committees in all the districts and at State level have been constituted in Gujarat circle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Members of Parliament from the State have been nominated in the concerned district/ State level Committees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Telephone Advisory Committee for Gujarat Telecom Circle and all the Telephone Districts therein have been instituted except for Bharuch and Sabarkantha Telephone Districts.

(c) to (e) As on date 32 MPs from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have been nominated in various District/ State level TACs in Gujarat Telecom Circle representing their constituencies as per details as given in the enclosed statement-I. Seven MPs (Four from Lok Sabha and Three from Rajya Sabha) as given in statement-II who have not conveyed their willingness or option regarding their adopted constituencies, are yet to be nominated.

Statement-I

List of MPs Nominated in Various TACs in Gujarat Telecom Circle

S.No.	Name of M.P.	Constituency	Name of TAC
1	2	3	4
MPs From Lok Sabha			
1.	Shri P.S. Gadhvi	Kutch	Bhuj
2.	Shri Sanat Mehta	S'Nagar	S'Nagar